

Access

Health

February

Published by the Library of Michigan

February 2004 Issue Volume XXI NO. 8 ISSN 1051-0818

In This Issue

Health
Information
on MeL
3

To Your
(Library's)
Health
6

Michigan
Reads! One
State, One
Preschool
Book

April 18-
30, 2004
10

PLFIG Update – Healthy Libraries Need Healthy Funding

by Eileen Palmer, Deputy Director of TLN and Project Director of PLFIG

It has been a difficult few years for those of us who yearn for equitable and sustainable funding for all Michigan public libraries. In 2000, when we started working in earnest with Charles McClure and his colleagues at the Florida State Information Use Management and Policy Institute, we thought our biggest problem was that we had been unable to develop, and agree on, a way to solve our many longstanding funding issues. We have had other studies and plans over the years, but somehow we have not been able to build a strong enough consensus about what needs to be done to actually make things better.

So for the last several years we have done all the right things – we studied the problems/issues, we hired experts to help us, many of us committed a great deal of time and effort to design solutions that would insure quality library service for all Michigan residents, and we built a strong consensus about how to move forward. Unfortunately, while we were doing all of that, the country and our state were going through an economic recession that has vastly altered (at least for now) the state's economic resources.

While we were planning for the future of library service, we lost a lot of ground in terms of current state funding for libraries. We're not alone, of course; budget cuts have affected all areas of the state budget. We however have taken our share of cuts, and now the gap between our existing state funding and our funding needs outlined by the Public Library Funding Initiative Group (PLFIG) has widened ever more. Our 1998 funding level of \$32,977,400 has been reduced over the last few years to \$20,424,000 in 2004. While this 38 percent decrease (which includes cuts to state aid, Library of Michigan operations and equity grants to the Detroit Public Library and the Grand Rapids Public Library) has been difficult for libraries and public library cooperatives, and service cuts for many of us were inevitable, it could have been worse!

Despite all of this, PLFIG is determined to be optimistic. With our plans for providing enhanced and improved library services for all state residents firmly in place, we are moving forward as we consider all possible avenues to secure the funding we so desperately need. In late 2003, we published "Michigan's Public Libraries: The Vital Link to a Promising Future." You can request additional copies of this report by e-mailing Eileen Palmer at empalmer@tln.lib.mi.us. Additionally we are developing advocacy training for librarians and trustees and working with the legislature to try to move forward some of the non-economic changes we have proposed, such as a revision of the District Library Act.

continued on page 2



Dear Friends,

Kathleen Norris is one of my favorite authors. I find her writing to be beautifully crafted and always thought-provoking. Recently, I came across yet another reason to keep her at the top of my list of favorites. I stumbled across a quote from her that so perfectly captures my perspective on technology for libraries, I have to share it with you: "Disconnecting from change does not recapture the past; it loses the future."

How true. I can remember two librarians with whom I worked years ago who vowed never to learn the skills needed for a computer. They made comments like "this technology will just have to pass me by" and "I'll stick to the old fashioned hardware—pencils." I can't be positive, but it's probably a safe wager that today those same librarians who had their heels dug in against change are now are happily (and masterfully!) using not only computers but the Internet as well.

Is there really any other alternative if you want to successfully work in today's library? For that matter, what about the libraries of tomorrow? The next few years are sure to bring even greater change and, as navigators of an incredible wealth of information, we must be prepared for it. Some of you are well positioned to do just that!

A few weeks ago, I visited a library that offers "Wi-Fi" (wireless Internet) access to its customers. Patrons can bring their appropriately configured laptops into the library and connect to the Internet without cords, wires or hook-ups. What a tremendous convenience!

The growing trend seems to be that rather than going to a set place to use a computer in a single, consistent location, each of us could instead have a personal, portable computer to carry everywhere we go. In the meantime, since Internet access is not yet individually portable, libraries are the logical place to offer this wireless solution for patrons who want it. And they will want it.

Let's not lose the future. Clearly, public libraries must have high-speed Internet access as a standard service, and we should all be thinking about Wi-Fi as a future necessity.

Christie

continued from page 1

We have a long way to go to achieve our vision for quality library services for all Michigan residents. We have charted our course and are determined that we will succeed! PLFIG would like to thank all of the volunteers that have worked so hard to develop our statewide plan for library services. With your continued support it will not be long before every Michigan resident will have convenient and timely access to the world of information, both print and digital, through the network of public libraries across the state.

Oh No! My Patron Has a Medical Question

by Leslie M. Behm, Main Library Reference, Michigan State University

Some of the hardest questions I have had to answer are the ones from patrons who are either patients or family members of a patient asking about the diagnosis they have just been handed. People who are looking to improve their health also can ask tough questions.

Having current information is one of the hardest things for libraries answering consumer health questions. Outdated information is a disservice to the patron and is potentially dangerous. Alan M. Rees (*The Consumer Health Information Source Book*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press. 6th Ed. 2003) provides a good resource for libraries needing to find books, Internet resources and other materials for consumer health. Lynda Baker has also written a good general resource book on what materials are good for public libraries (*Consumer Health Information for Public Librarians*. Scarecrow Press. 2002).

Consumer health information books from Johns Hopkins University, the Mayo Clinic, Harvard University Medical School, American Association of Family Practice, American College of Physicians or any other reputable medical or public health school, clinic or medical association are good choices for textbooks. Omnigraphics publishes a series called *Health Reference Series* as well as one for teens: the volumes are expensive with little glitz but are very good. NetLibrary, accessible through MeL, provides electronic versions of many textbooks. The following is a short list to provide some examples of possible books for selections in print.

Selected Books

- *Health Reference Series*. Omnigraphics. Approx. \$78 per volume.
- *Harvard Medical School Family Health Guide*. Komaroff, Antony L. et al. (author). Cassell P.L.C. (2003). ISBN:0-304-35719-7. \$79.95.
- *Mayo Clinic Family Health Book 3e* by Mayo Clinic (author). Harper Resource; 3rd edition (2003). ISBN: 0060002506. \$49.95.
- *The Johns Hopkins Family Health Book* by Johns Hopkins (author). Harper Resource (1998). ISBN: 0062701495. \$48.
- *Mayo Clinic Guide to Self-Care: Answers for Everyday Health Problems* by Philip, Md Hagen (editor), Mayo Clinic (compiler), Philip T. Hagen (editor). Kensington Publishing Corp.; 1st edition (1999). ISBN: 0962786578. \$19.95.
- *The Cornell Illustrated Encyclopedia of Health: The Definitive Home Medical Reference* (Weill Cornell Health Series) by Antonio M. Gotto (editor). Lifeline Press (2002). ISBN: 0895261863. \$45.
- *The Merck Manual of Medical Information, Second Edition: The World's Most Widely Used Medical Reference - Now In Everyday Language* by Mark Beers (author). Merck and Co; 2nd edition (2003). ISBN: 0911910352. \$37.50.
- *The Essential Guide to Prescription Drugs 2003: Everything You Need to Know for Safe Drug Use* by James Rybacki (author), James W. Long (author). Harper Resource; 7th edition (2002). ISBN: 0060508884. \$20.95.

One big disadvantage of print material is that it is outdated quickly. Newsletters can be an answer to dated material but are often expensive and frequently are not indexed in database resources.

The advent of the Internet has provided another avenue for current material. As long as the site is reputable (for a site on how to evaluate Web resources, see <http://www2.widener.edu/Wolfgram-Memorial-Library/webevaluation/webeval.htm>), the information will be as valid and current as using textbooks. The United States federal government provides a wealth of information regarding health issues. Michigan's very own MeL provides a section

on evaluated Web resources on health information (<http://www.mel.org/health/health-index.html>). Many medical associations also provide Web resources for patients.

The following is a short list of good Web sites that provide links to evaluated resources.

Selected Internet Resources

- MeL Health Information Resources: <http://www.mel.org/health/health-index.html>
- MedlinePlus: <http://www.medlineplus.gov>
- Health Information (NIH): <http://health.nih.gov>
- Federal Consumer Information Center – Health: <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/results.tpl?id1=16&startat=1&—woSECTIONSdatarq=16&—SECTIONSword=ww>
- www.health.gov: <http://www.health.gov>
- USDA: <http://www.usda.gov>
- FDA: <http://www.fda.gov>
- Consumer and Patient Health Information Section: <http://caphis.mlanet.org/consumer>
- Health Finder: <http://www.healthfinder.gov>
- Family Doctor –American Academy of Family Practice: <http://familydoctor.org>
- Mayo Clinic: <http://www.mayoclinic.com>

Health Information on MeL

by Becky Cawley, MeL Administrator

The following is an interview with Metta Lansdale, selector for the MeL “Health Information” topic.

Becky Cawley: The Health Information section is one of the most popular and most heavily used parts of MeL Internet. How did you get started as a MeL selector?

Metta Lansdale: I came to work for Sue Davidsen and Dick Hathaway and the MLink/Go-MLink program in 1994. Go-MLink, the inaugural online Internet library, was making its transition from a text-based Gopher product to a graphical Web product. Sue asked me to begin developing the Health Information Resources section of what is now MeL, the Michigan eLibrary. I was thrilled to be part of the development of MeL in its infancy, at

a time when the World Wide Web was just gaining its footing, and to now finally see it become a true online database product.

Cawley: What are your goals for the health section?

Lansdale: I aim to create a collection of stable and reliable, yet varied, providers of health information. Without trying to be comprehensive, and now that the section has good breadth in most areas, I aim to add and refine in areas of the greatest personal and public health concern - cancer and flu, health insurance or finding a personal physician, for instance.

Cawley: How has health information changed since you started working for MeL?

Lansdale: The government, private health professionals and the health industry have finally completely embraced the idea that high-quality, comprehensive information for the general public and for individuals affected by specific health concerns is essential to the public health and for the effectiveness of health care.

Cawley: What do you look for in a good health site?

Lansdale: I look for credibility of intent. I always consider the source. I consider the very best resources for factual health information to be governmental or the non-profit health advocacy associations such as American Lung Association or the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Equally important is the information provided by the many wonderful support groups that share personal stories about coping with chronic conditions and caring for family members who suffer.

Cawley: How do you maintain awareness of health issues/concerns?

Lansdale: I read the newspaper and watch the online "chatter" of health information specialists and public librarians. I maintain my membership with the Medical Library Association, the Michigan Health Science Libraries Association and the Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group. I highly value the questions that come to me directly from people searching MeL for information that is either missing from MeL or presented in a way that makes it hard to find. As the director of the Chelsea District Library, I pay attention to the continual heavy demand by our customers in the public library setting who face a difficult diagnosis.

Cawley: Who do you consider your main audience(s)?

Lansdale: Individual health consumers, health practitioners who are looking for resources to give their patients/clients, and to a limited extent health practitioners who work independently in the community - nurses, dentists, pharmacists - who do not have ready access to professional resources.

Alternative Health Information Resources: Gale & MeL

by Tim Watters, Special Materials Cataloger, Library of Michigan

According to the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, alternative medicine is "a group of diverse medical and health care systems, practices, and products that are not presently considered to be part of conventional medicine." It also says, "Conventional medicine is medicine as practiced by holders of M.D. (medical doctor) or D.O. (doctor of osteopathy) degrees and by their allied health professionals, such as physical therapists, psychologists, and registered nurses."

This article will briefly focus on Gale's Health and Wellness Resource Center, as well as MeL's "Best of the Internet" sites on this topic, but a good reference interview will probably be necessary to make sure the librarian and patron are looking for the same thing.

To find the Health and Wellness Resource Center (HWRC), go to <http://mel.org> and log onto MeL Databases, where HWRC is listed under the Health heading. HWRC subscribes to the Health on the Net Foundation's eight principles of conduct for providing medical information. These principles relate to the honesty and reliability of medical information. For research purposes, principles 6 and 7 may be the most important: transparency of authorship and transparency of sponsorship. As we all know, there are uncounted medical scams on the Internet, so patrons may want to begin with HWRC rather than just doing a random Google search. As of this writing, HWRC was last reviewed for adherence to these principles on July 30, 2001.

Periodical searches on HWRC produce lists of results that include both alternative and traditional medical information, with the most recent article first. For example, a November 4, 2003, search for “valerian” in the magazines and journals tab produced a results list topped by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* but immediately followed by a hit from *Backwoods Home Magazine*. As of this writing, it is not possible to limit periodical searches to one or the other type of practice, although there is a link to the *Alternative Health Encyclopedia* from the HWRC homepage. Patrons may have to decide for themselves what is alternative from among the periodical articles, perhaps with guidance from the NIH definition. A final tidbit about HWRC: the Health News button may be of particular interest to alternative health researchers because most of the articles are from foreign newspapers, a resource most Americans generally are not able to access.

The MeL Internet resources site, selected by librarians, has a specific section for Alternative Medicine/Unconventional Therapy. Go to <http://mel.org> and click on MeL Internet, then select Health Information Resources; the first topic listed is Alternative Medicine / Unconventional Therapy. Like HWRC, this site subscribes to the Health on the Net Foundation's principles. As of this writing, there are 11 links to general sites and seven links to lists of sites on specific therapies. Notably, three of the 11 general links go to pages that focus on the identification of health care fraud. These links may actually be the best place for a thorough researcher to begin.

The Importance of Weeding Earnestly

by Diane Donham, Library of Michigan

When it comes to medical collections in public libraries, bigger isn't necessarily better. Perhaps nowhere in your collection is currency as critical. Not only is it essential to stock your shelves with the latest in health information, it is equally important to rid your stacks of outdated materials. You want to offer the most authoritative materials possible, so it is essential to practice a regular weeding program. The following pointers, gleaned from articles and firsthand advice from health sciences librarians John Coffey of Michigan State University and Michael Simmons of Sparrow Hospital Library, may help you plan your attack.

Before hitting the stacks, take some time to strategize your approach. Start by defining the overall goals of your health collection. You will be better able to effectively and consistently deselect from your collection if you have a clear sense of what you want your collection to provide. These goals can serve as a point of reference against which to evaluate candidates for weeding. The Utah Consumer Health Information Network (UCHIN) suggests the following examples of goals you might set:

- Provide users with the most current literature available.
- Provide materials of high quality.
- Provide information on several topics.
- Give priority to items and topics with the greatest demand.¹

The areas in your collection that need the most diligent weeding are those that deal with:

- treatments or standards of care;
- drug information or treatments;
- diseases and conditions; and
- dictionaries and directories.

These materials should be assessed on a yearly basis. Keep close watch on materials covering hot topics and self-help books. Pay attention to health news to keep apprised of trends and developments in the areas that are most apt to draw your patrons' attention, and then make sure that your collection is keeping pace. MeL's "Health and Biomedical Topics in the News" section provides a convenient means to do so.

The importance of currency in a medical collection cannot be overemphasized; however, that does not mean that a uniform “expiration date” can be applied collection wide. As convenient as it would be, your weeding strategy should not amount to “everything [x] years and older gets pulled.” Not only would it prove extremely expensive to replace materials at that rate, you would also end up losing perfectly good material and could deplete your collection of all its material on a particular topic. The truth is, certain categories of information age better than others. Anatomy and physiology books can have shelf lives of up to ten years. Popular works that address sociological, emotional or spiritual concerns also have longer

shelf lives. More so than age, their shelf life should be determined by their use by your patrons. In some cases, an arbitrary time limit could eliminate the most recently published materials on a given topic, leaving a void in your holdings. Scan the same bibliographic resources you use to add to your collection, such as "Selected List of Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library" (a.k.a. the Brandon/Hill List), Books in Print, and publisher catalogs to identify the most recent items available on a subject.

Quality is as important as timeliness. When evaluating items in your collection, pay attention to the authority of the work. Medical books that lack references or that are authored by someone of questionable expertise might be best pulled regardless of how new they are. If funds permit, current materials that are worn beyond repair should be replaced. In addition, your patrons will be best served if your medical collection covers a wide range of topics. To maintain the diversity of your holdings, try to replace weeded volumes with materials on the same subject. If you are part of a consortium, your concerns with quality extend beyond your library's walls. Bear in mind your consortial obligations and access as you make your weeding decisions.

The potential for liability is another issue with medical collections. It is a very wise practice to stamp your discards "outdated materials." If you do keep past editions of any works, they should be labeled to indicate that a newer edition is available.²

These tips address the main concerns with the tending of your medical collection. Hopefully they have made the idea of deselection more manageable, if not a lick more palatable. Perhaps you will find the motivation to get out there and pull in this quote from Mike Simmons, who heard one of his patrons exclaim, "It's so much easier to use the collection!" More proof that good things come to those who weed.

Cited References.

¹Consumer Health Collection Development: Deselection Guidelines. Liz Workman. July 2000. Utah Consumer Health Information Network (UCHIN). 12/2/2003 <http://uchin.med.utah.edu/heart-librweed.htm>.

²Tomlin, Anne C. "Nursing Your Children's Health Collection. (LJ Collection Development: Children's Health) (Bibliography)." *Library Journal* 123.1 (1998): 57-61.

To Your (Library's) Health

by Linda Neely, Public Services, Library of Michigan

Coughing, sneezing kids with sticky hands, unbathed and odoriferous patrons – the list of health threats to staff and patrons of libraries is endless. We've been shoveling and salting our sidewalks and parking lots this winter, but what about inside the library? Here are a few tips to make your library a safer place for both staff and patrons.

Cleanliness is Next to Healthiness

Hand Washing: Medical research suggests that frequent and thorough hand washing is the single most effective method for avoiding the spread of germs and contagious diseases. We can gently encourage library patrons to wash their hands by posting signs to this effect in library restrooms and making antibacterial soap available. Perhaps a prominent display of hygiene videos (e.g., *Just Wash 'em; Whatsa Hygiene?*) in the children's area would inspire the little folk. Staff should also be reminded to wash their hands frequently during the day, particularly after handling books and public access computers.

Dust: It's almost impossible to keep a library free of dust; however, a good air conditioner that filters dust particles can go a long way toward making the air more breathable. Shelves and storage areas need regular dusting. If you happen to be conducting a collection inventory, cleaning the shelves and dusting the materials should be part of the plan. Battery operated hand-held vacuums work well for this purpose. The Minnesota Historical Society provides further suggestions on cleaning books and shelves at <http://www.nedcc.org/plam3/tleaf43.htm>.

Public Access Computers: We've all seen how dirty public access computer screens and keyboards become. These should be cleaned on a regular basis to reduce the spread of germs, as well as to improve the image of the library. The best way to clean keyboards is to remove the keys so that all the gunk that causes sticky keys can be removed. A compressed air sprayer and a lint-free cloth can be used for routine daily maintenance. Instructions for cleaning computer keyboards can be found at <http://www.helpwithpcs.com/maintenance/cleaning-keyboard.htm>.

Headphones: Earpieces used by the public should be cleaned after every use if at all possible. Although there is little research to suggest that headphones transmit head lice, they have been proven to spread certain contagious skin and scalp conditions. Because antibacterial sprays cause allergic reactions in some children, the National Pediculosis Association recommends wiping earpieces after each use with a clean cloth that has been soaked in warm water. School libraries or parents might want to invest in personal foam headphones that can be stored in plastic bags with each student's name (see <http://www.classroomdirect.com>).

Body and Mind

Repetitive Stress Injuries: Staff members who do shelving and those who spend long hours at their computers should be encouraged to take frequent breaks during which they stretch and exercise their fingers, knees, wrists and any other joints that are being unduly cramped or stressed in the course of their work. A good set of desk yoga exercises is available at <http://www.mydailyyoga.com/yogaindex.html>.

Mental Stress: We can't always avoid stress, but it certainly helps to have policies in place for dealing with difficult patrons. Good policies take the onus off the staff person while clearly informing the patron of appropriate or inappropriate behaviors. Supervisors should also have written staff policies to which to refer when disciplinary action is necessary. The yoga exercises cited above can also be helpful for mental stress reduction.

Accident Prevention: Where possible, store large reference books on shelving with pullout reading shelves or on reader tables. Be sure stacks and stairwells are well lit. Arrange electrical cords in such a way as to prevent them from being tripped over or accidentally kicked by patrons using library equipment. To help avoid accidents involving falling books, be sure that adequate numbers of book supports are available and use non-skid shelf tape when possible. The Gaylord catalog has all of these items.

Ergonomics: Both staff and patron workstations should be ergonomically correct. Stations used by multiple staff users should be flexible and include adjustable chairs with armrests, foot rests, wrist rests and monitor shields. If the library's lighting creates a glare, try indirect lighting or glare filters. For further suggestions see:

Chadbourne, Richard D. "Ergonomics and the Electronic Workplace." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 69:5 (Jan 1995), p. 24-6.

A Shot in the Arm for Friends Groups: Friends of Michigan Libraries Offers Assistance

by Sarah Young, FOML Board Member

Thinking of forming a Friends of the Library group at your library, or does your group need energizing? There's help available from the Friends of Michigan Libraries. The Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) support activities of Michigan libraries in many ways, including providing financial contributions through a grant program.

FOML grant request applications are considered in two cycles each year — spring and fall. Requests received by March 31 will be considered for the spring cycle, and those received by September 30 will be considered during the fall cycle. Historically, grants of \$250 have been awarded to one or more applicants each year.

The grant application process requires that applicants agree to join the FOML prior to receiving the award if selected, and to report on their grant-related activities periodically. The grant application form can be downloaded from the FOML Web site at <http://www.foml.org>.

Visit the FOML Web site to learn about other ways that local libraries can get assistance in their efforts to enhance and showcase their local programs.

Web Sitings

by Kyle Ripley, Reference Assistant, Library of Michigan

Reliable Health Sites

Health Information Resources on MeL
<http://mel.org/viewtopic.jsp?id=13>

Health and Safety Information on Household Products
<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>

WebMD
<http://www.webmd.com>

National Library of Medicine
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

U.S. Government Healthfinder
<http://www.healthfinder.gov>

Almanac of Policy Issues – Health
<http://www.policyalmanac.org/health/index.shtml>

MDAdvice.com-The Reliable Health Information Source
<http://www.mdadvice.com>

National Institutes of Health
<http://www.nih.gov>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
<http://www.osha.gov>

Health A to Z, Your Family Health Site
<http://www.healthatoz.com>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov>

New England Journal of Medicine
<http://content.nejm.org>

American Medical Association
<http://www.ama-assn.org>

Healthier Paychecks for Working Families and Individuals

The tax season is upon us, and many working individuals are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC. Households that qualify for the EITC could receive a tax refund of up to \$4,204. The EITC is a powerful work incentive and the single most effective anti-poverty program in existence. The EITC is money that families can use to put food on the table... move into better housing... invest in education... save for the future... and contribute back to the community.

You can join the Statewide Earned Income Tax Initiative this year by getting the word out to working households about the EITC. A variety of resources that can help you promote the Earned Income Tax Credit in your community are available at <http://michigan.gov/eitc>.

'Libraries: How They Stack Up': OCLC Report Looks at Economic Impact of Libraries

compiled by Casey Kremers, Department of History, Arts and Libraries

OCLC's latest market research report, "Libraries: How They Stack Up," provides a snapshot of the economic impact of libraries, making some interesting comparisons between library economics and activities and other sectors, professions and destinations worldwide.

Some interesting facts from the report:

- U.S. libraries purchase an estimated \$14 billion in goods and services annually, exceeding U.S. spending on videos and athletic footwear, and approaching the level spent by businesses on magazine advertising.
- U.S. libraries account for nearly half of the \$31 billion spent annually by libraries worldwide.
- U.S. libraries circulate 1,947,600,000 items a year.
- U.S. public library cardholders outnumber Amazon customers by almost 5 to 1. Each day, U.S. libraries circulate nearly four times more items than Amazon handles.

- U.S. libraries circulate about the same number of items as FedEx ships per day.
- One out of every six people in the world is a registered library user.
- Five times more people visit U.S. public libraries each year than attend U.S. professional and college football, basketball, baseball and hockey games combined.
- If library patrons were to pay the average sporting game ticket price of approximately \$35 per visit, libraries would generate more than \$39 billion in annual revenues.
- Libraries hold 16 billion volumes worldwide — that's about 2.5 items for each person on earth. At an average price of \$45 per book, the worldwide library book inventory approaches nearly three-quarters of a trillion dollars.
- The total number of U.S. librarians is 203,000, roughly equivalent to the number of pharmacists and architects. U.S. librarians deliver more than 422 million hours of service annually.

For more information, see the full report at <http://www.oclc.org/index/compare/default.htm>.

Library of Michigan, MSU Libraries Announce Addition of Turfgrass Information File to the Michigan eLibrary

by Sarah Lapshan, Department of History, Arts and Libraries

The Library of Michigan and the Michigan State University Libraries recently announced that the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) will now be available to all citizens of Michigan via the Michigan Electronic Library (MeL) at <http://mel.org>. The addition of this database to the Michigan eLibrary is made possible by the MSU Libraries.

According to MSU Library Director Clifford H. Haka, TGIF indexes the literature of turfgrass, thereby assisting turf researchers and practitioners — such as landscape architects, park and cemetery managers, golf course superintendents and athletic field managers, as well as home lawn enthusiasts — to identify and secure information relevant to their endeavors or interests. The database is produced by the Turfgrass Information Center, which is housed within the Michigan State University Libraries. Both the center and the database are generously supported by the United States Golf Association.

“The database is logically produced at the MSU Libraries because we possess the largest publicly accessible collection of turfgrass literature in the world,” said Haka. “We are extremely pleased to see this resource added to the outstanding array of MeL databases already available to the entire state of Michigan.”

“We're excited to add some Spartan green to the Michigan eLibrary,” said State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau. “We always say you can find information on just about anything at MeL. This is one more example of the unique yet important kind of data available through the Michigan eLibrary that can help our residents perform their jobs and take care of their homes more effectively.”

TGIF can be searched for information on topics as diverse as ornamental grasses, managing lawns in shade, marking athletic fields, golf green mowing heights, and the performance of new cultivars of turfgrasses, to professional issues including seed priming, snow mold prevention, and backlapping bedknives.

For more information about the contents of the Turfgrass Information File, visit <http://tic.msu.edu/tgifda.htm>. For more information about Michigan State University Libraries, visit <http://www.lib.msu.edu>.

Michigan Reads! One State, One Preschool Book April 18–30, 2004

by LuAnn Kern, Michigan Reads! Coordinator

In case you haven't already heard the news. ... This spring, there will be some strange sounds coming from libraries across the state. Moos, neighs, oinks, cock-a-doodle-dos! It's all part of a new statewide project called Michigan Reads! One State, One Preschool Book. Developed by the Library of Michigan, the program seeks to highlight the importance of reading and sharing books with children, especially during the critical developmental ages of 0-5; to encourage family bonding through reading; and to increase awareness of Michigan's public libraries as they provide services to families that lay the foundation for reading and school success. The program contains three main components:

THE BOOK: Barnyard Song, written by Rhonda Gowler Greene and illustrated by Robert Bender, was voted this year's Michigan Reads! selection. It's the delightful story of what happens when a bad case of flu strikes the farm and the familiar barnyard chorus is replaced with sneezes and coughs.

LIBRARIES and CHILD CARE CENTERS: Plans are underway for special Michigan Reads! events at libraries, childcare centers and other venues across the state. Programs include special author visits, training opportunities for parents, and a host of children's programming focusing on books and barnyard animals.

MICHIGAN READS! TOOLKITS: Developed by Michigan librarians and available via the project Web site at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads, the toolkits provide a wealth of information and resources in easy access, quick print format. The Parents' Toolkit features reading activities that parents and childcare providers can do with preschoolers. The Librarians' Toolkit offers program ideas and support materials for community-based Michigan Reads! activities.

So, join the chorus! To learn more about how you can participate in Michigan Reads! visit www.michigan.gov/michiganreads or e-mail michigan-reads@michigan.gov.

Special Thanks to Members of the Michigan Reads! Project Committees:

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Deb Bodner (chair), Cecilia Ann Marlow, Karen Floyd-Sanders, Gale Ford, Betsy Hull, Casey Kremers, Marta Kwitkowski, Roger Mendel, Suzanne Migrin, Linda Neely, Randy Riley, Carla Sharp, Cindy Van Neste, Darren Warner.

RESOURCES & PROGRAMS - Christine Heron (chair), Meaghan Battle, Ann Chapman, Kathy Kershner, Karen Lemmons, Michelle Miner, Julie Pierce, Mary Ploor, Barbara Rowe, Jacquie Sewell, Alma Simmons, Jeanne Smith, Barb Stringer, Aimee Strittmatter, Karrie Waarala, Wendy Wilcox, Jo Wurtz.

PARTNERS & SPONSORS - Jim Seidl (chair), Jennifer Barlow, Evelyn Freeman, Paula Gauthier, Bettina Graber, Metta Lansdale, Judi McNally, Valerie McNiff, Mary Myllyla, Diane Sheldon-ku, Sara Tackett, Nancy Yetman.

STATEWIDE EVENTS - Lisa Mulvenna (chair), Jolee Hamlin, Doreen Hannon, Sara McCarville, Sonya Norris, Kelly Skinner, Jill Preitzer, Kathy Thornhill, Carol Treat Morton, Denise Westervelt, Barb Zimmerman.

BOOK SELECTION - Virginia McKane (chair), Terri Assaf, Bonny Avery, Ieva Bates, Pam Bauman, Lurine Carter, Sara Castle, Susan Chinault, Rhonda Rarrell-Butler, Pat Fittante, Connie Ilmer, Lori Kunkel-Coryell, Jane Leavitt, Ward MacCready, Pat Peterson, Mary Pfaff, Janet Rose, Fran Runnells, Alyssa Sadler, Cathy Sullivan Seblonka, Rita Soltan, Lila Toney, Holly Ward Lamb, Sub Zubiena.

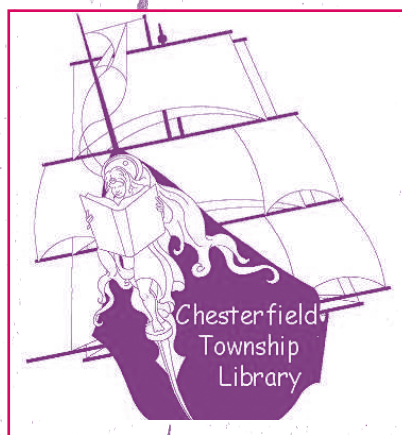
*Michigan
Reads!* 

Chesterfield Township Library Logo Recognized by *The Social Librarian*

The Chesterfield Township Library logo was named "Logo of the Month" in the January 2004 issue of *The Social Librarian*, an electronic newsletter published by WJ Schroer. The logo was designed by Mike Kirsten, husband of Holly, who works at the library.

Bill Schroer, the newsletter's editor, told Library Director Midge Lusardi, "When we found your library logo, I have to tell you it was immediately a standout winner for us. The sense of discovery has rarely been so adventurously portrayed...while being linked to reading!"

To read *The Social Librarian*, visit <http://www.socialmarketing.org/newsletter>.



Judy Mulvaney Elected President of Capital Library Cooperative Board of Trustees

The Delta Township District Library is pleased to announce that Judy Mulvaney has been elected president of the board of trustees for the Capital Library Cooperative. Judy has served on the cooperative board for several years, in addition to serving as vice-president of the Delta Township Library board. A resident of Delta Township, Judy is an elementary school teacher for the Lansing Schools and has been involved in library work and service to the community, both in Lansing and in Delta Township.

Judy says, "Libraries are faced with many challenges to keep up with technology, especially with shrinking budgets. I am truly impressed with all the services our libraries provide area communities." Her duties will include overseeing policy, procedure and regulations, as well as monitoring organizational performance and fiscal responsibility.

If you have a news item you would like to contribute, please contact Casey Kremers at 517-373-5578 or email: ckremers@michigan.gov.



2003 Access Team: Back row - Kyle Ripley, Tim Watters, Casey Kremers, Jo Budler, Linda Neeby, Andrew Wilson, front row - Becky Cawley and Karrie Waarala. Not pictured, Marnie Elden and Jennifer Houseman.

**Library of Michigan
State Librarian**
Christie Pearson Brandau

**Deputy State Librarian,
Statewide Operations**
Jo Budler

**Deputy State Librarian,
Internal Operations**
Nancy Robertson

Graphic Design/Layout
Marnie M. Elden

Contributing Writers:

Leslie M. Behm, Christie Pearson Brandau,
Becky Cawley, Diane Donham, Casey Kremers,
LuAnn Kern, Sarah Lapshan, Linda Neely,
Eileen Palmer, Kyle Ripley, Tim Watters,
Sarah Young

Library of Michigan Board of Trustees
William Anderson, Director of HAL; Christie
Pearson Brandau, State Librarian; Senator Irma
Clark-Coleman, Elaine Didier; Thomas Genson;
Senator Tom George, Bettina Graber; Cliff Haka;
Representative Kathleen Law, Gayle Spearman-
Leach, Elaine Logan; Representative Mike Nofs,
Frances Pletz; Chief Justice Maura Corrigan
represented by Barbara Bonge

Library of Michigan Foundation
Executive Director
Judith Moore

Foundation Board of Directors
Albert F. Zehnder, President; J. Lawrence Lipton, Vice
President; David Tate, Treasurer; Christie Pearson
Brandau, State Librarian; Glen L. Bachelder, Richard
W. Butler, Jr. PLC; Elaine K. Didier, Ph.D.; Kenneth S.
Glickman, Anne E. Marcus, Mark Hoffman, Mary
McCormack, Thomas J. Moore, Tiffany L. Patzer,
Frances H. Pletz; David A. Spencer, Ed.D.; Tim Swope,
Katherine F. Willis, Ph.D.; Robert T. Wilson; **Honorary
Members:** Barbara J. Brown, Michelle Engler, Former
First Lady; Frank D. Stella, Richard D. McLellan,
Emeritus, Founding President.

*The Library of Michigan is part of the Department of
History, Arts and Libraries. Dedicated to enriching the
quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to
information, preserving and promoting Michigan's
heritage, and fostering cultural creativity, the department
also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission,
the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the
Michigan Film Office and the Michigan Historical Center.*

*This publication is available in an alternative
format: Braille or audio cassette. Please call
517-373-5614 for more information.*

Department Director
Dr. William M. Anderson

Deputy Director
Mark Hoffman

Access (ISSN 1051-0818) publishes information about
the Library of Michigan and its activities plus other
materials of interest to the Michigan library communi-
ty. Please direct comments or questions to:

Casey Kremers, Communications Specialist
Dept. of History, Arts and Libraries
P.O. Box 30738 • Lansing, MI 48909

Phone 517-373-5578 or fax 517-373-5700

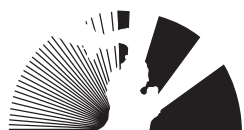
TTY: 517-373-1592 or the Michigan Relay Center:
1-800-649-3777



**Would you like
to receive
Access ?**

Return this form to:
Jennifer Houseman
Department of History, Arts
and Libraries
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909

Name		
Position		
Company		
Business Address		
City	State	Zip



**Library of
Michigan**

Department of History,
Arts and Libraries

702 West Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507
www.michigan.gov/hal
Phone: 517-373-1300

**PRESORTED
STANDARD**
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansing, MI
Permit No. 1200